



BROOKFIELD NEWS

HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

At the end of another very disrupted term, we reach the Easter break with the prospect of more settled times ahead.

The first easing of national restrictions will impact directly on school, with the return this week of community use of our outdoor sports facilities. This will hopefully be followed next month by further changes that will allow school to operate more normally. As throughout the past twelve months, school has continued this term in customary manner. We have recently run our Year 9 options (Guided Choices) process, and the transition process for Year 6 students has picked up pace following national offer day. Planning for the summer term is advanced, including the launch of our new House and vertical tutoring systems. Staff are looking forward to welcoming parents back into school as soon as we are able.

We also bid farewell to two popular colleagues this week. Mrs Davies (Maths), leaves to take up a post at Aldercar High School, and Miss Butterworth (Science) will be taking up a post in Worcestershire. We wish them every success in their new roles.

On behalf of all staff I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very peaceful Easter break and look forward to hitting the ground running on our return.

Mr Keith Hirst, Headteacher



FANTASTIC FUNDRAISING

William Ambler in 7K, and his family, have been putting their time in lockdown to good use raising money for Sheffield Children's Hospital. They have set themselves a 1000 mile challenge and are aiming to ride bikes or run to achieve the distance. William has really taken up this challenge, riding his bike every day after school on a 5 mile circuit and further at the weekend with the rest of the family. So far they have covered 376.58 miles.

William's younger brother Alfie was diagnosed with severe Haemophilia type A when he was 18 months old. This is a rare genetic blood disorder and since his diagnosis he has required a lot of medical care including two operations. He receives care at the Oncology and Haematology ward, known as ward 6, which is in the old part of the hospital and some rooms don't even have a window. The children on this ward are very sick sometimes having to spend months in isolation. The money they raise is to go toward supporting the fantastic work they do and to help renovate ward 6.

Any donations from the school community would be greatly received. You can contribute by clicking [here](#).

MOVING UP TO BROOKFIELD

Our Year 6 transition process, Moving Up To Brookfield, is now well underway.

Invitation postcards have been sent to our incoming Year 7 students congratulating them on securing a place at Brookfield from September 2021.



On March 22nd we offered a look into what subjects our new Year 7s will be studying with our Subject Tasters. The video proved very popular, with introductions for Heads of Subject, and insights into some of the topics that will be covered during their first term at secondary school. You can find the video on our website, [here](#).

The process continues with our Year 6 Welcome to Brookfield Evening, which will take place on Thursday 22nd April, followed by our roadshows which will be touring local primary schools during May and June.

For all the latest transition news keep an eye on our website, and follow [Moving Up To Brookfield](#) on Twitter.



COVID-19 TESTING

At Brookfield we were very keen for all students to return to school on the earliest possible date following the recent relaxation of lockdown, so we made the decision to start the Covid-19 testing process the week before students returned for their lessons. As you can imagine this was a mammoth task requiring the gathering of volunteers and staff, completing the required training, gathering consent and making the arrangements for student appointments. A big thank you to parents for supporting us by arranging for students to attend school for their tests. The process ran extremely smoothly and we are very grateful to the staff and community volunteers, without whom we would not have been able to complete over 3000 tests in 9 days.

BANK HOLIDAY REMINDER

A reminder that Good Friday is on 2nd April.

School will be closed to students on this day.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: GEORGE HARRIS & VICTORIA RUCK

George Harris has written this piece for local magazine S40, and we're pleased to feature it here.

This year has obviously caused lots of changes for everyone. We've been locked-down multiple times, sporting events are a no-go and we've sanitised our hands more times than we have in our entire lives but these changes have been even further amplified for university students. Leaving home during a pandemic and paying for online lectures has given university students a unique but somewhat troubling time.

Former Brookfield student Victoria Ruck began her first year at Durham University in 2020 and had this to say about her first experiences of uni life:

It has been a strange step up from being at Brookfield. I'm currently studying Spanish and Italian, and not only is the academic aspect a total change from what it's like at school, the social side is completely different (especially during a pandemic). The workload is quite intense but not in a bad way, of course. I feel like I'm really being challenged to learn and expand my knowledge in a subject that I genuinely enjoy, although I'm still not used to the constant stream of work from multiple different classes. If there is one thing you learn at university, it's how to balance your workload, and if I'm honest, the second term is about to start and I'm still not sure how to balance it.

The new social life and making friends is something I'm still getting used to. Back at Brookfield, everyone knew everyone, which was lovely, but when I'm at uni, there are constantly new people to meet. I know everybody says it, but it's often true, the people you meet during freshers' week really do become some of the people you become closest to. I somehow managed to get close enough with someone in less than a week to book concert tickets with her for a year ahead, which in hindsight was probably careless; however, our friendship is still going strong. I do often miss the small, tight-knit feel of Brookfield and being surrounded by people who are familiar to me, but on the other hand, I feel like being at university has put me in at the deep end, but in a way in which I've grown to be more confident and independent.

TABLE TENNIS IS GO

Following a successful bid to the Brookfield Parents and Friends Association, the Physical Education department has purchased four new competition table tennis tables. These tables will allow the department to teach table tennis effectively on the PE curriculum in Key Stages 3 and 4, allow students to enter a table tennis grade for practical assessment in GCSE PE and A Level PE and allow the department to run an extra-curricular table tennis club. We will also have the option to enter local and regional table tennis competitions and make school-club links with local table tennis clubs and providers. The Physical Education department are really excited by the new addition to our resources and as you can see have already put them into use, delivering table tennis to Year 9 students this term. The department would like to thank the BPFA for the funding they have provided and the positive impact they will have on the experience of many Brookfield students for years to come.



REMOTE LEARNING, ADMIRABLE FRIENDS AND THE WONDERS OF A SNOW DAY

Brookfield student Anja Raine wrote the following for local magazine S40...

"But how do you do it all?" I find myself asking my friends on one of our Friday FaceTime catch-ups, the new weekly signal that the weekend has begun. We discuss everything in our catch-ups, from any worries, to anecdotes about our pets. From our hopes for the future, to our latest Netflix or iPlayer binge.

The general consensus is that lockdown can be testing, yet I find myself admiring how my friends manage. They do it all: learning how to knit; making quizzes for each other to be played on a Saturday afternoon; painting the most gorgeous pictures; helping younger siblings do their school work, acting as a teacher whilst the school doors remain shut for most of us; taking zoom music lessons and zoom dance lessons; entering essay competitions; and even continuing their extra-curricular activities. They do all this on top of their A Levels, which is definitely not a light workload. Witnessing the people around me adapt to new challenges, and taking them in their stride, is truly impressive.

However, a sad side effect of this adaptation has been the topic of a couple of recent conversations. Now schools have been able to bring learning into people's homes, have we seen the death of the snow day? Over the last few weeks, one of the things which has brought me the most excitement is that we have been lucky enough to have a couple of snow spells. I love the snow, I love the sound of it crunching underfoot as you walk in it. I love how it coats the trees and the bushes so everything looks architectural. I love how the dogs get excited when they see the snow: one of them always insists on eating it at any opportunity and the other rolls around and slides on it whenever he finds a slope. Snow seems to evoke a silliness in everyone - adults, children and even animals.

I think back to times when school closed in the past because of the snow. You could spend the whole day sledging and school work was completely forgotten. A snow day meant being wrapped up in a hundred layers to make a snowman, it meant having rosy cheeks and a red nose, or laughing endlessly when making snow angels. Best of all, it meant warming up afterwards with hot chocolate by the fire, all wrapped up in blankets, grateful for the warmth thawing you out. A snow day was a day for the taking.

Obviously, being able to learn at home doesn't mean that children (or dogs) will stop playing in the snow. But I do still feel a little sad that snow days might not be quite the same again. No matter how blurred the lines become between working and resting during this lockdown, we all attempt to balance the two in our lives while staying at home. I think that the thing I find most admirable about my friends is that they have the same mind-set as a child on a snow day. They feel like they can do anything, and still they manage to keep on top of the sixth form workload.

YEAR 9 GUIDED CHOICES

During March 2021 we have been running the Guided Choices process, where students in Year 9 choose which subjects they will be studying at Key Stage 4.

This process is now coming to an end and we are extremely happy with the engagement that students have shown. Senior leaders will now continue to work to place students in their chosen subjects.

Resources to assist with Guided Choices can still be found on our website, [here](#).

Mr Robinson, Assistant
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 1st April	Spring Term ends (2:55pm)
Thursday 22nd April	Year 6 Welcome to Brookfield Evening
Monday 3rd May	Bank Holiday - school closed
31st May - 4th June	Half Term holiday
Friday 9th July	INSET Day - school closed for students
19th - 23rd July	Roll-over period (Years 6 - 10)
Friday 23rd July	Summer Term ends
Tuesday 10th August	A Level Results Day
Thursday 12th August	GCSE Results Day

